

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising **the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47**, ~~wherein said nucleic acid molecule confers vascular-preferred polynucleotide transcription.~~
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic **acid** molecule of claim 2, wherein said ~~polynucleotide confers xylem-preferred gene expression in a plant cell~~ **sequence is a xylem-specific promoter.**
6. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic **acid** molecule of claim 2, wherein said ~~polynucleotide is capable of upregulating or downregulating the expression of an operably linked gene in a plant cell~~ **sequence is operably linked to a gene encoding an RNA interference molecule.**
- 7-20. (Canceled)
21. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).
22. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said sequence is operably linked to a gene encoding an RNA interference molecule.

23. (New) The vector of claim 22, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).
24. (New) A plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 22.
25. (New) The plant cell of claim 24, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).
26. (New) A transgenic plant comprising the plant cell of claim 24, wherein said transgenic plant expresses said gene encoding said RNA interference molecule.
27. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 26, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).
28. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 26, wherein said plant is selected from angiosperms and gymnosperms.
29. (New) A method of making wood comprising the steps of a) transforming a plant cell with a vector comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47 operably linked to a gene encoding an RNA interference molecule to obtain a transformed plant cell; b) culturing said transformed plant cell under conditions that promote growth of a plant to produce a transgenic plant that expresses said RNA interference molecule; and c) obtaining wood from the transgenic plant.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).
31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said plant is selected from angiosperms and gymnosperms.
32. (New) A method of making wood pulp comprising the steps of a) transforming a plant cell with a vector comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47 operably linked to a gene

encoding an RNA interference molecule to obtain a transformed plant cell; b) culturing said transformed plant cell under conditions that promote growth of a plant to produce a transgenic plant that expresses said RNA interference molecule; and c) obtaining wood pulp from the transgenic plant.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said RNA interference molecule is a portion of the coding region of cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD).

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said plant is selected from angiosperms and gymnosperms.